IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Previously Presented) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising a change notifying unit notifying the second subscriber of the change of the first telephone number.

4.   (Previously Presented) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising a change confirming unit that asks the first subscriber whether or not the second backup copy needs to be modified, before the telephone number changing unit changes the first telephone number in the second backup copy.

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Previously Presented) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said telephone number change notification instruction is an instruction from the first subscriber.

8.   (Previously Presented) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said telephone number change notification instruction is an instruction
from a portable telephone service provider.

9.   (Previously Presented) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 8, the telephone number changing unit further changes the first telephone number in the first backup copy to the third telephone number in response to the telephone number change notification instruction from the portable telephone service provider.

10.   (Previously Presented) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising a telephone number difference reflecting unit sending telephone number difference information to the second subscriber so as to cause the change of the first telephone number, to be reflected in a telephone directory of the second subscriber's portable telephone.

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Cancelled)

14.   (Cancelled)

15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus disposed in a data center managing a telephone network, the apparatus comprising:

a storage unit storing a first backup copy of telephone directory information received from a first subscriber having a first telephone number, as well as a second backup copy of telephone directory information received from a second subscriber having a second telephone number;

a first searching unit, responsive to a telephone number change notification instruction requesting a change of the first telephone number to a third telephone number, searching the first backup copy to find that the second telephone number is registered therein;

a second searching unit, responsive to detection of the second telephone number in the first backup copy, searching the second backup copy to determine whether the first telephone number is registered therein; and

a telephone number changing unit, responsive to detection of the first telephone number

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in the second backup copy, changing the first telephone number in the second backup copy to the third telephone number.

17.   (Previously Presented) A method implemented in a data center managing a telephone network, comprising:

storing a first backup copy of telephone directory information received from a first subscriber having a first telephone number, as well as a second backup copy of telephone directory information received from a second subscriber having a second telephone number;

responsive to a telephone number change notification instruction requesting a change of the first telephone number to a third telephone number, searching the first backup copy to find that the second telephone number is registered therein;

responsive to detection of the second telephone number in the first backup copy, searching the second backup copy to determine whether the first telephone number is registered therein; and

responsive to detection of the first telephone number in the second backup copy, changing the first telephone number in the second backup copy to the third telephone number.

18.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for execution on a computer disposed in a data center managing a telephone network, the program causing the computer to function as:

a storage unit storing a first backup copy of telephone directory information received from a first subscriber having a first telephone number, as well as a second backup copy of telephone directory information received from a second subscriber having a second telephone number;

a first searching unit, responsive to a telephone number change notification instruction requesting a change of the first telephone number to a third telephone number, searching the first backup copy to find that the second telephone number is registered therein;

a second searching unit, responsive to detection of the second telephone number in the first backup copy, searching the second backup copy to determine whether the first telephone number is registered therein; and

a telephone number changing unit, responsive to detection of the first telephone number in the second backup copy, changing the first telephone number in the second backup copy to the third telephone number.

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